

STATEMENT OF PETE ENWALL

Gainesville: 10/17/2001

Ladies and Gentlemen of the redistricting committees:

My name is Pete Enwall, and I stand before you today as a victim of systemic, systematic, and invidious discrimination. My vote has not counted, and I have no representation in the Florida House, the Florida Senate or the U.S. House. You see, I am an overweight white male Republican, living and working in Alachua County, Florida.

A lot of conservative people like me live west of NW 43rd Street, and I-75, and we need for you to redraw the lines for these offices so that we can have somebody to go to, somebody to talk to who represents us.

I want to ask that some of Senator Cowen's current district be reconfigured to extend into western Alachua County, and that some of Representative Baxley's current district or Representative Argensiano's district be extended into western Alachua County. I would also ask that Congressman Stearns' current district be redrawn to include western Alachua County.

We have six members of our legislative delegation right now, and they are all liberal democrats. Right now with all due respect for Senator Smith, Representative McGriff and the others, I just don't feel comfortable talking to them about issues that are important to me. They don't share my views on very much.

(Examples: Intang tax, expansion of sales tax free days, the so-called living wage (death wage) are just three. None of them is pro- 2nd amendment, all favor some form of gun control. None of them support school vouchers or the Florida First program)

As for Congress, Karen Thurman and the conservatives in western Alachua County do not agree on very much. They are against partial birth abortion, they are against government legitimization of same sex unions, and they are against giving out free prescription drugs to everybody, without some real accountability. Ms. Thurman has voted in support of those positions.

So right now as you can see we conservatives have no real voice in our government.

A Second reason we need to include some conservatives in our delegation is because of our lack of clout in Tallahassee and Washington. Because we don't have any members of the majority party in our delegation, we just cant make any headway in the House or the Senate, because our folks don't have any persuasiveness with the majority party.

The University of Florida is the life blood of our community, regardless of whether we are liberal democrats or conservative republicans, or middle of the road libertarian greens, we need somebody in the majority party in Tallahassee and Washington who is part of our county delegation, and who can be the point person in promoting the University of Florida with the majority party.

I want to present you, Mr. Chairman, with a map of Alachua County, and some election results, which I submit confirms that western Alachua County is conservative, and that we currently have no voice in electing people who represent our views. We would respectfully ask you to redraw our lines, so that we can have some folks who do represent us. Please make our vote count also.

STATEMENT AT PUBLIC HEARING ON REDISTRICTING
Gainesville, Florida
October 17, 2001

- Members of the Committee:
- I'm Elsie Allen, Business Representative for Carpenters Local 75
- As members of the Committee are well aware, this community faces several policy challenges: the unsteady economy; the increasing uncertainty in the labor market; the difficulty of earning a living wage; the lack of health benefits for all; the problems in our schools. I could go on.
- The way you go about this redistricting will have a tremendous impact on those issues.
- Here in Gainesville, we have been fortunate that we have had excellent representation in Congress. I'm talking specifically about Congresswoman Karen Thurman.
- We have gained a great deal from sharing a congressional district with others in Alachua County. We share many of their concerns, and they share ours. We are a community of interest. And our interests are heard and represented by our legislators.
- Gainesville is one city. It deserves one Member of Congress.
- My message is simple: If you divide our city or our county ... if you divide us in a way that separates us from our legislators, much of the progress we have made will evaporate. Our working families – most of whom don't pay attention to politics every day – have enough trouble getting to know who their legislators are. Don't make it even harder for them by switching districts around – particularly if it is just to achieve some political objective.

- And on that note, I ask you, please do not use this *redistricting* power as just a mechanism to increase your *political* power. You are doing the people's business.
- For that reason, I ask that you maintain Gainesville as part of the district represented by Representative Thurman, and I ask that you refrain from drawing any district that would break our communities or deprive us of the leadership that has brought us together.
- Thank you for your attention.

Faye Baird
Town of Micanopy, Commissioner

Town OF MICANOPY

Town Commissioner
2114 NW 40th Terrace, Suite A-1
Gainesville, FL 32605

Phone (352) 466-3121

October 17, 2001

Members of the Redistricting Committee
Florida Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As a town commissioner for the Town of Micanopy, I want to share my concern with you about redistricting. From my prospective as a town commissioner, redistricting is of great importance to the Town of Micanopy. The Town needs to maintain its representation through the legislative districts and the congressional districts now representing Alachua County. This town commissioner understands that boundaries of districts will change. However, those changes can be made in a manner that ensures the representatives of the people who know Micanopy best will retain Micanopy as part of their district.

I urge you to ensure the districts are compact for each one of the representative districts in the State of Florida. You are aware of the various gerrymandered Congressional districts within Florida today. We do not need these districts in the future. I hope in the future the Town of Micanopy will be included in a compact congressional district and compact state districts for both the Florida House and Senate. It is important to citizens to know and understand who represents them in Congress and the State Legislature.

Please ensure district boundaries follow precinct boundaries in Alachua County. In the redistricting of 1992, one mobile home park, which had been contained in one voting precinct prior to 1992, was split into two legislative districts. This was done even though the precinct boundary remainder the same. This does not speak well for representative government.

For protection of the University of Florida and our local Alachua County governments, the legislative delegation should

include for the State House at least the two compact districts now represented by McGriff and Jennings. It would also be helpful is other State House Districts included parts of Alachua County, in order to ensure a large and diverse legislative delegation that can be effective in representing the municipalities, county and the University of Florida.

On behalf of the Town of Micanopy, I request that the Town be maintained in one State House district and one Senate district. This would assist the Town of Micanopy and its citizens by making it clear which state representative and which state senator represent the community and its interests.

I encourage your committee to follow the federal guidelines for redistricting. As a representative of the Town of Micanopy, I want you to ensure that redistricting in Florida is done in such a way that there will be no need for any court challenges on the redistricting plan. Please remember that any redistricting which leads to litigation will take precious resources of the state away from the people who need those resources the most, our children, our elderly, and our disabled citizens.

I want you to remember that you represent all of the people of Florida in a process which will be looked upon by the people of Florida over the next ten years as being either fair or unfair. Everyone in Florida, not just you the legislators, but all citizens, owe it to our country and our state in this time of war to ensure that the people of the world can look at Florida as an example of democracy in action. Florida already has a black eye from the election fiasco last year. Our State was the laughing stock of the nation and the world. For the sake of the people of Florida I ask you to put aside party differences. We as Americans must be able to show the people of the world that Florida is a true democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to let me address you.

Sincerely,

Samuel A. White, town attorney
for Faye Baird
Town Commissioner
Town of Micanopy

FB/rmb

Rodney Estes
Council Chairman, City of Waldo

CITY OF WALDO, FLORIDA
Office of the Council Chairman

P.O. DRAWER B
WALDO, FLORIDA 32694

October 17, 2001

Members of the Redistricting Committee
Florida Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Yesterday, the City Council of the City of Waldo authorized me, as chairman of the city council, to share the council's concern with you about redistricting. Of particular importance to the City of Waldo and Alachua County is the maintenance of the legislative districts and the congressional districts which provide representation today for the city and county. The City Council understands that boundaries of districts will change. However, those changes can be made in a manner which ensures that the representatives of the people who know Waldo best will retain Waldo as part of his or her district.

The City Council wishes to emphasize the following points to you this evening:

1. The City Council urges you to ensure the compactness of each one of the representative districts. You are aware of the gerrymandered Congressional district now represented by Corrine Brown. This district includes a part of Waldo. The City Council hopes that in the future the City of Waldo will be included in a compact congressional district. This is important to the City of Waldo from the standpoint of ensuring that citizens know and understand who represents them in Congress and the State Legislature.
2. For protection of the University of Florida and our local Alachua County governments, the legislative delegation should include for the House the two compact districts now represented by McGriff and Jennings as well as many other representatives that can fit into Alachua County. For the Senate, insurance that the district held by Smith is compact and that at least one other Senate district touches Alachua County. This is important for all local governments in Alachua County, as well as the University of Florida, which all of our local governments see as the pillar of the local economy.
3. That districting follows precinct boundaries in Alachua County. One mobile home park had been contained in one voting precinct prior to 1992. The precinct boundaries remained the same in 1992, but the precinct was

split into two legislative districts. This causes a great deal of confusion and is unfair to the people within the precinct. It does not speak well for representative government to be so confusing to the people the government is supposed to serve.

4. The City of Waldo requests that it be maintained in one State House district and one Senate district. This would assist the City of Waldo and its citizens by making it clear which state representative and which state senator represent the community and its interests.
5. The City of Waldo requests that your committee follow the federal guidelines for redistricting. The City of Waldo wants you to ensure that redistricting in Florida is done in such a way that there will be no need for any court challenges on the redistricting plan. Please remember that any redistricting which leads to litigation will take precious resources of the state away from the people who need those resources the most, our children, our elderly, and our disabled citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to let me address you on behalf of the City of Waldo. Please remember that you represent all of the people of Florida in a process which will be looked upon by the people of Florida over the next ten years as being either fair or unfair. Everyone in Florida, not just you the legislators or we as local government officials, but all citizens, owe it to our country and our state in this time of war to ensure that the people of the world can look at Florida as an example of democracy in action. The City of Waldo asks you to put aside party differences and to complete the redistricting process only as Floridians and Americans.

Sincerely,



Rodney Estes
Council Chairman
City of Waldo

Samuel Mutch
Town of Micanopy, Attorney

Town OF MICANOPY

**Office of the Town Attorney
2114 NW 40th Terrace, Suite A-1
Gainesville, FL 32605**

Phone (352) 378-5599

Fax (352) 378-3388

October 17, 2001

Members of the Redistricting Committee
Florida Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Yesterday, the Town Commission of the Town of Micanopy authorized me as Town Attorney to share its concern with you about redistricting. Of particular importance to the Town of Micanopy and Alachua County are the maintenance of the legislative districts and the congressional districts which provide representation today for the Town and county. The Town Commission understands that boundaries of districts will change. However, those changes can be made in a manner which ensures that the representatives of the people who know Micanopy best will retain Micanopy as part of his or her district.

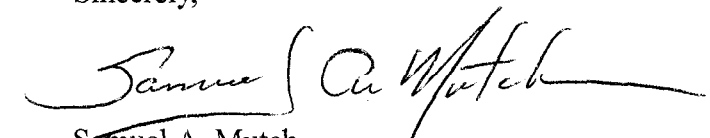
The Town Commission wishes to emphasize the following points to you this evening:

1. The Town Commission urges you to ensure the compactness of each one of the representative districts. You are aware of the gerrymandered Congressional district now represented by Corrine Brown. This district includes a part of Micanopy. The Town Commission hopes that in the future the Town of Micanopy will be included in a compact congressional district. This is important to the Town of Micanopy from the standpoint of ensuring that citizens know and understand who represents them in Congress and the State Legislature.
2. For protection of the University of Florida and our local Alachua County governments, the legislative delegation should include for the House the two compact districts now represented by McGriff and Jennings as well as many other representatives that can fit into Alachua County. For the Senate, insurance that the district held by Smith is compact and that at least one other Senate district touches Alachua County. This is important for all local governments in Alachua County, as well as the University of Florida, which all of our local governments see as the pillar of the local economy.

3. That districting follows precinct boundaries in Alachua County. One mobile home park had been contained in one voting precinct prior to 1992. The precinct boundaries remained the same in 1992, but the precinct was split into two legislative districts. This causes a great deal of confusion and is unfair to the people within the precinct. It does not speak well for representative government to be so confusing to the people the government is supposed to serve.
4. The Town of Micanopy requests that it be maintained in one State House district and one Senate district. This would assist the Town of Micanopy and its citizens by making it clear which state representative and which state senator represent the community and its interests.
5. The Town of Micanopy requests that your committee follow the federal guidelines for redistricting. The Town of Micanopy wants you to ensure that redistricting in Florida is done in such a way that there will be no need for any court challenges on the redistricting plan. Please remember that any redistricting which leads to litigation will take precious resources of the state away from the people who need those resources the most, our children, our elderly, and our disabled citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to let me address you on behalf of the Town of Micanopy. Please remember that you represent all of the people of Florida in a process which will be looked upon by the people of Florida over the next ten years as being either fair or unfair. Everyone in Florida, not just you the legislators or we as local government officials, but all citizens, owe it to our country and our state in this time of war to ensure that the people of the world can look at Florida as an example of democracy in action. The Town of Micanopy asks you to put aside party differences and to complete the redistricting process only as Floridians and Americans.

Sincerely,


Samuel A. Mutch
Town Attorney, Town of Micanopy

SAM/cde

Margaret Neilson

October 17, 2001

Legislative Redistricting Hearing
Gainesville, FL

As a voter in Alachua County Florida it is vital that Congressional District Five not be divided in such a way that the seats of Rep. Karen Thurman, Senator Rod Smith and Rep. Ed Jennings are not intact. In order to be represented as both a student and as a Democrat in this region, these seats are essential. They allow my voice to be heard on a local, state, and national level. I ask the legislature to consider the impact redistricting would have on the people in this region before redrawing these lines.

Margaret Neilson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Neilson", written in a cursive style.

Carla Small

October 17, 2001

I am writing in concern of the Florida Legislature redrawing US Rep. Carol Thurman's congressional district. I am a resident of Gainesville, Florida, and our US Congresswoman has been an excellent representative for the people of the fifth district. Representative Thurman is an experienced lawmaker and an asset to all Floridians on the Hill. It will be a degradation of Floridian influence on national politics to change Rep. Thurman's district lines thereby threatening her reelection. The people of her district want her to remain our representative in Congress. Our desires should not be ignored on this issue. Although many of us understand that politics cannot be taken out of politics, we do not want to see an excellent representative fall by the wayside because of partisan bartering and gerrymandering. We want to be represented by the best. Carol Thurman is the best. Do not change the congressional lines of District 5.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Small', with a stylized, cursive script.

Carla Small

CITY OF WALDO, FLORIDA

Office of the Council Chairman

***P.O. DRAWER B
WALDO, FLORIDA 32694***

October 17, 2001

Members of the Redistricting Committee
Florida Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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Sincerely,



Rodney Estes
Council Chairman
City of Waldo